WE NEED MOTHER EARTH; OPINION: DOWN TO EARTH

Ajax News Advertiser (Ontario)

April 20, 2023 Thursday

Copyright 2023 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 24

Length: 257 words

Byline: Joyce Jonathan Crone

Body

The land is alive. The earth has spirit. Indigenous people refer to the earth as Mother Earth. A mother who nurtures, provides, and cares. She is delicate and gentle, powerfully strong, and fierce. Beautiful inside and out. To simply see her beauty is not enough. To thoughtlessly take what she offers is not enough.

Our relationship with Mother Earth is our connection to life itself, to our existence. The relationship with our mother is the most important relationship on this earth. A lifegiving connection from birth, an umbilical cord connection, before birth. Giving birth is painful, and causes suffering, yet is a miracle to witness. We are born dependent upon another to nurture, provide, and care for all our needs.

Mother Earth shares food, water, sustaining us with oxygen as we inhale, and then she graciously takes our exhales. Her interconnectedness to the trees, plants, the ocean, sun, and the moon communicates her love for us. Mother Earth does not need us to exist, we need her.

Our spirits must find space and time to renew balance and connection. She calls desperately to our spirits; we do not listen. We live as if she does not exist.

It is time to listen and heed her wisdom.

I imagine her saying, "You walk a short time here, children of the earth. Your umbilical cord connection to me has never been cut. Live lovingly, with honour, respect, and reverence for all I offer. You are me and I am you."

Joyce Jonathan Crone is Mohawk, born on the Six Nations Reserve. A retired teacher, she now makes Huntsville her home.

Column

Load-Date: April 20, 2023

End of Document